

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, YO, US, UR, CSCE

SUBJECT: CSCE IMPLEMENTATION AND INFORMATION ON MBFR

REF: BELGRADE 5727

1. WE FULLY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR DEVELOPING
CLOSE WORKING RELATIONS WITH GOY OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR
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CSCE IMPLEMENTATION. WE DO NOT BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT

DIALOGUE ON MBFR NEGOTIATIONS IS AN APPROPRIATE WAY TO
ACHIEVE THIS PURPOSE. WE SAY THIS FOR TWO REASONS:

-- (A) NATO ALLIES AGREED AT OUTSET OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS
TO KEEP NEUTRALS OUT OF MBFR, AND ALTHOUGH WE ARE WILLING TO
KEEP THEM GENERALLY INFORMED, WE DO NOT WISH TO ENCOURAGE
EFFORTS TO GET THEIR VIEWS FACTORED INTO WESTERN POSITIONS.

-- (B) IN KEEPING WITH THIS OBJECTIVE, NATO ALLIES ALSO
AGREED, LARGELY AT OUR URGING, ON THE MANNER, EXTENT AND
PROCEDURE FOR KEEPING THE INTERESTED EUROPEAN NEUTRALS IN-
FORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS IN MBFR. UNDER THESE AGREED
MODALITIES, NATO DELEGATIONS AT MBFR OR RESPONSIBLE OFFI-
CIALS IN CAPITALS ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE GENERAL INFORMA-
TION TO REPRESENTATIVES OF NEUTRAL STATES UPON THEIR
REQUEST. WE FELT AND STILL FEEL THIS IS IMPORTANT FOR

PURPOSES OF SECURITY AND CONSISTENCY IN WHAT NATO PARTI-
CIPANTS IN MBFR SAY.

2. FOR THESE REASONS WE BELIEVE IT BEST THAT ANY RESPONSE
TO YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE FOR LEARNING OF DEVELOPMENTS IN
MBFR BE MADE IN VIENNA OR WASHINGTON AND NOT REPEAT NOT IN
BELGRADE (PARA 2 OF STATE 251642). THIS IS CONSISTENT
WITH THE AGREEMENT WE HAVE WITH OTHER NATO PARTICIPANTS IN
MBFR. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE, AND WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE, REGU-
LARIZED MEETINGS IN ANY CASE.

3. IF YUGOSLAVS PRESS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON SUBJECT
OF MBFR, YOU SHOULD EXPRESS OUR BELIEF THAT CONTACTS ON
THIS SUBJECT WILL PROVE MORE FRUITFUL IF THEY ARE HANDLED
IN VIENNA OR WASHINGTON BY OFFICERS WITH SUBSTANTIVE
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS.

4. MEANWHILE EMBASSY MAY USE MBFR SUMMARY CABLES FOR ITS
OWN INFORMATION AND AS BACKGROUND FOR ITS NORMAL CONTACTS
WITH YUGOSLAV OFFICIALS.

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